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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

18 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Congressional Briefing Notes of the Chairman, JCS

1. The attached draft briefing notes were sent to us by General Lemnitzer's staff (Captains Stevens and Fox) with a request for CIA comment and concurrence. There is considerable pressure of time about this request, because General Lemnitzer is to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Friday and we are told that he plans to use these same notes in briefing the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy on Thursday afternoon. He normally uses the same notes for all hearings.

2. A number of changes which we recommended in an earlier draft have been made. We find that the present draft accurately reflects existing national estimates and information about the Soviet military forces, except at three places marked by clips:

- (a) On page 2, and the associated slides 2 and 3, we recommended that the chairman note that with respect to the 75-125 Soviet ICBM launchers estimated for mid-1963, the high side of the range is now considered the more likely. We also recommended that the chairman point out that, as in the case of MRBMs, each Soviet ICBM launcher will probably have more than one missile and therefore have a reload capability which US ICBM launchers do not have. General Lemnitzer's staff did not add these points to the draft, but assured us that the chairman is fully briefed to bring them out in the question-and-answer period.
- (b) We also note that in this same paragraph, General Lemnitzer is using our so-called Intelligence Assumptions for Planning to arrive at an estimate of

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Soviet ICBM launchers in mid-1964. We have not previously reported these Assumptions to Congress -- for example, when Senator Symington asked us about our estimates recently, we did not refer to the Assumptions. However, they were prepared expressly for the JCS, and we do not believe we can now object to their use. They are caveated in the paragraph and shown with dotted lines on slide 2.

- (c) On page 9 at bottom and page 10 at top, the draft did not reflect the latest Bette Panel report which just became available today. Changes were worked out by General Lemnitzer's staff and OMB to take account of this new analysis. The new wording at clip is satisfactory to OMB.

3. While it is not our province to pass upon net estimates of Soviet vs. US military capabilities, we call your attention to the JCS conclusion, on page 10 at the bottom, that the strategic balance now favors and will increasingly favor the US over the next two years. The earlier draft stated that in 1963 the US would have a "decisive retaliatory capability." On our recommendation that "decisive" seemed too optimistic, the word was deleted.

4. As in the past, the chairman's briefing notes reflect only the majority views in the USIB. Dissents are not included, but General Lemnitzer has been briefed and can speak to the dissents in question-and-answer period.

Abbot Smith
Acting Assistant Director
National Estimates

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733

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Director: Congressional Briefing
Notes of the Chairman, JCS

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TS 142461
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TS 142461-A cy 4

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New page 2 of TS 142461

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TS 142461-A
18 Jan 1962